



## ACCESS SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Aurora Avenue is currently a five-lane roadway through the City of Shoreline consisting of two general purpose lanes in each direction and a center two-way left-turn lane. The new improvements to Aurora Avenue will convert the two-way left-turn lane into a focused left-turn and U-turn lane. This lane will help balance the competing needs of traffic movement and land access by providing safe access to land development while simultaneously preserving the safe and efficient flow of traffic on the roadway.

### SAFETY IMPROVEMENT

For more than two decades, before-and-after studies of arterial roads similar to Aurora Avenue have noted a significant reduction in the number and severity of crashes where two-way left-turn lanes were replaced with median and channelized left-turn lanes. Aurora Avenue through the City of Shoreline has one of the highest accident rates for a road of its kind in the state. Channelizing medial access points and allowing for U-turns not only will significantly reduce the number of traffic conflicts and the number of traffic accidents but will also enhance safety along the entire corridor.

In addition, this lane will provide refuge areas for pedestrians crossing at intersections and at mid-block. The pedestrian refuge will serve walkers, wheelchair users, people with baby strollers, and others who decide to stop at mid-crossing until the next crossing cycle.

### WILL ACCESS SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS BE BAD FOR BUSINESS?

Access safety improvements will enhance access to properties. The quality of property access is more than a function of the number of driveways. It also depends on the design and spacing of driveways, the ease and safety of pulling off or onto a road, the distance from intersections, and traffic signal sequencing. Businesses with safe and easy access not only are more inviting to shoppers and visitors but also are the scene of fewer traffic crashes. On the contrary, poor access management can have an adverse effect on corridor business. As traffic volume increases over time, the effect of closely spaced or poorly designed driveways becomes more pronounced, making it more difficult and hazardous for customers to enter and exit properties. Access to corner businesses can be blocked by traffic queuing at intersections. In response to these difficulties, customers will begin to patronize businesses with safe, convenient access and will avoid patronizing businesses in areas with poor and unsafe access. The end result is that the cumulative effects of poor and unsafe access design begin to impair, rather than improve, access to individual businesses.



## **WILL ACCESS SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS CAUSE MORE TRAFFIC TO BE PUSHED INTO NEIGHBORHOODS?**

Access safety improvements and good access management preserves a road's capacity to move vehicles at the posted speed and extends the useful life of the road. One major contributor to congestion is unnecessary or uncontrolled points of conflict caused by too many opportunities to turn onto or off the road. If an arterial becomes overly congested, traffic will seek alternate routes, often through neighborhoods. This increased volume of traffic on neighborhood streets often exceeds their design volume, disrupting the neighborhood and creating unsafe conditions.

### **FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For more information on the Aurora Corridor Project please contact Anne Tonella-Howe, City of Shoreline at (206) 546-1700.